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**L'Europe (moins la France) au début du XXe Siècle. Par M. Fallex et A. Mairey.** Ch. Delagrave, Paris (1906).

An unpretentious octavo, of convenient size for consultation, illustrated by many characteristic landscapes and human types and with maps intercalated in the text, exhibiting the different parts of Europe under their physical, historical, commercial and industrial aspects. France is omitted, as stated in the title. To the reader who is not a native of that country, this appears regrettable, for a comparison of France with the other European countries and nations, from the standpoint of the authors, would be interesting. The book might, were it not for this omission, prove an excellent geography for secondary schools. It is an imitation of the German text-books, that are of such great value for educational purposes, and deserve to be imitated everywhere.

It is sufficient to state, that the book begins with northern Europe, after a good and ample general introduction. First come the British Isles, then the Scandinavian peninsula and Denmark, Russia, the Alpine region, Austria-Hungary, the German Empire, Holland, Belgium, the Iberian peninsula and Italy; the Balkan peninsula being at the end. The space allotted to each is fairly in proportion with its extent and importance and the treatment objective and generally fair. Spain alone might have been spared the terms in which the very short retrospect of its history, from the fifteenth century on, is dismissed. The term *rossée*, for instance, applied to the ultimate outcome of Spain's enormous political and geographical expansion, is altogether too trivial for the slow downfall of a mighty Empire, and would better fit France and the manner in which she lost her American colonies. Neither is "*berné*" fully in place. Geographers should not descend to the use of such terms. The book is a serious one and demands dignified language.

Inconsiderable errors are found, though but rarely, and it is not worth while to dwell upon them.

A. F. B.

**Geschichte von Japan. By O. Nachod.** Vol. I, Book I: Die Urzeit (bis 645 n. Chr.). Gotha, 1906. In: Allgemeine Staatengeschichte herausgegeben von Karl Lamprecht. 8vo. xxix and 426 pp.

This is the first attempt at a critical exposition of the history of Japan, based on all available sources made accessible through translations into European languages. The book is essentially of an analytical character, giving in lengthy foot-notes extracts from the works consulted, as well as the varying views of the different authors. It thus presents a most thorough and useful text and reference-book for the historical student, but is by no means easily digestible reading. The author's attitude towards his authorities and the opinions of Japanese scholars and foreign Japanologues is that of a cool, sober, objective criticism, and never in radical opposition to established doctrines; he seldom commits himself to any judgment of his own, and rather stands under the sway of his material than rises with a free mastery above it. To some this will appear a commendable feature, to others a weakness. Altogether, a more personal element, and greater vigour in the discussion of conflicting views, would have been more advantageous, inasmuch as it would have lent to the book a tinge of individuality. The book, although of the highest rank as regards philological and historical accuracy, and deserving the name "*wissenschaftlich*" to the fullest extent, thus is lacking in originality and in original and productive criticism. The author depends too much on what his authorities say to see his way clearly through the problems themselves, and to